

# **CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES**

**July 15, 1998  
Mission Inn  
Riverside, CA**

## **OPENING REMARKS**

Vice Chairman Graveline called the meeting to order and welcomed the public to the meeting. He stated the Authority met in Executive (closed) session to discuss the Executive Director position. Announced during the “closed” session was the resignation of Edward G. Jordan as Chairman of the Authority as well as Authority Member, due to personal reasons. Vice-Chairman Graveline stated that due to the resignation of the Chairman the first order of business is the nomination and election of a Chairman. Member Morshed nominated Michael E. Tennenbaum, Member Florez seconded the motion and the nomination was unanimously approved. Chairman Tennenbaum thanked the Authority and stated that Edward G. Jordan was a terrific advocate of High-Speed Rail and supports the efforts of the Authority, he added that Mr. Jordan has resigned from a number of his board seats so he can spend time with his family.

Chairman Tennenbaum stated that the Authority has an announcement with respect to the Executive Director. Vice-Chairman Graveline stated that during the “closed” sessions conducted in June and before this meeting that the Authority had determined that they were going to select Mehdi Morshed as the Executive Director of the Authority. A vote was taken during the “closed” session and the Authority unanimously voted to appoint Member Morshed as Executive Director. Chairman Tennenbaum added that the Authority went through an extensive search and had a couple of excellent candidates, in fact the Authority anticipates to retain one of them as a consultant. Chairman Tennenbaum stated by appointing Mehdi Morshed as the Executive Director the Authority has eliminated the ramp-up time and will be able to hit the ground running.

## **MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> & JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> - MEETING MINUTE APPROVAL**

Member Stapleton moved to approve the May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Member Bates seconded and the minutes were unanimously approved.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

### **EUROPE SITE VISIT**

Dan Leavitt, Interim Executive Director, stated as requested by several members, and due to the upcoming election in November, the European visit has been rescheduled from late October to Mid November (November 14<sup>th</sup> through November 21<sup>st</sup>). Don Camph from the California Institute for Technology Exchange will be contacting all of the members and making all of the arrangements for the trip. The trip will include first going to Germany than to France and finishing in England. The arrangements, once they have been finalized, will be made available to the public.

### **APPROVAL OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PASSENGER RAIL PLAN CONTRACT:**

Vice-Chairman Graveline stated the sub-committee of Members Morshed and Epstein were monitoring the evaluation process for the Comprehensive Statewide Passenger Rail Plan contract. Vice-Chairman Graveline stated that due to a business commitment Member Epstein

had to leave after the “closed” session, therefore Member Morshed was asked to discuss the results of Request for Proposal(RFP) evaluation and selection process. Member Morshed stated that he and Member Epstein were not part of the evaluation team, however they closely monitored the entire process. Member Morshed stated that the evaluation team consisted of Jackie Landsman from Senator Quentin Kopp’s office, Warren Weber from Caltrans Division of Rail, Ken Bosanko from Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, Joan Sollenberger from Caltrans Transportation Planning and Dan Leavitt, Interim Executive Director. Member Morshed explained that both he and Member Epstein received copies of all of the proposals for review. Member Morshed stated that he and Member Epstein agree with the recommendation of the evaluation team to award the Comprehensive Statewide Passenger Rail Plan Contract to Arthur Bauer & Associates, Inc..

Member Morshed moved to approve the contract with Arthur Bauer & Associates, Inc.. Member Stapleton seconded the motion and the contract was unanimously approved.

### **Presentation of Public Outreach Research Plan**

#### **MAX BESLER AND KRIS DEUTSCHMAN - TOWNSEND, RAIMUNDO, BESLER & USHER**

Mr. Besler and Ms. Deutschman discussed the Teams approach to polling, focus groups, sample size and timeline. Mr. Besler also presented the mock-up of the Web site and a preliminary logo. Member Morshed asked Mr. Besler how the Web Site will be managed to keep the information up to date and what is the anticipated cost associated with maintaining the site. Mr. Besler stated that the McNally Temple Associates will be maintaining the site and will be able to update the site on an as needed basis, at a relatively low cost. Member Morshed asked Mr. Besler what the status is on the logo. Mr. Besler stated that they have received comments on the logo and will be incorporating these comments and will present a logo at the next Authority meeting for approval. Vice-Chairman Graveline asked Mr. Besler if the Web Site will be finalized for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Besler stated that the Web Site should be finalized by the next meeting. Mr. Besler’s presentation material is available upon request.

### **APPROVAL OF PUBLIC OUTREACH WORKPLAN**

- Proposed Resolution 7-2: Approval the workplan for the Authority’s Public Outreach Program.

Vice Chairman Graveline asked for a motion to approve the Public Outreach Program. Member Bates moved to approve the Public Outreach Program. A member of the public inquired with all of the outreach is there any selling of a plan. Mr. Besler stated that there is no selling of a plan the whole purpose of an outreach program is the education of the public. Chairman Tennenbaum seconded the motion to approve and the Public Outreach Program was unanimously approved.

### **Presentations from Local/Regional Transportation Agencies:**

#### **ALEX CLIFFORD, INLAND EMPIRE HIGH SPEED RAIL TASK FORCE**

Mr. Clifford welcomed the Authority to the Inland Empire. He addressed the transportation issues from a both San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Mr. Clifford introduced a number of public officials in attendance stating that the Region supports the efforts of the Authority. Mr. Clifford introduced John Huesing, the Economist for the Inland Empire.

#### **JOHN HUESING, ECONOMIST**

Mr. Huesing discussed the economic impact of having the high speed rail system pass through the Inland Empire. He stated the Inland Empire, comprised of Riverside and San Bernardino

counties, currently has the population of 3.1 million, the Department of Commerce has forecasted the Inland Empire to have the fastest population growth followed by L.A.. He stated that looking forward the Inland Empire is in the process of being the newest and the most dynamic region. As a consequence of the growth the individuals that are in leadership positions are looking for infrastructure, specifically transportation, that is the reason why the Inland Empire is excited about having the HSR service their region. Not only will the system alleviate some of the transportation issues it will significantly assist in boosting the economy.

**BOB BUSTER, RIVERSIDE COUNTY - SUPERVISOR**

Mr. Buster welcomed the Authority to Riverside. He stated the proposed corridor from San Diego County along the I-15 on the 215 through San Bernardino and continuing on to Los Angeles is the right corridor. This corridor will assist the growth of the Inland Empire as well as shape the growth. He added that Riverside County has been a leader in promoting mass transit, through rail, in 1988 the County passed Measure A which was a half cent sales tax which was the first measure to include a specific provision for rail service. These funds were used not only for rail service but also for various highway and freeway improvements. Mr. Buster added that the voting turnout in some of the growing areas of Riverside county is 70 to 80 percent for local elections. Concluding that the voter interest will assist in the passing of the high speed rail initiative.

**JOHN LONGVILLE, CITY OF RIALTO - MAYOR**

Mayor Longville welcomed the Authority to the Riverside. Mayor Longville discussed SANBAG's role in the transportation planning for the county, the various transportation projects and funding sources.

**ALEX CLIFFORD, INLAND EMPIRE HIGH SPEED RAIL TASK FORCE**

Mr. Clifford closed the presentations of the Local and regional Agencies by stating the Inland Empire High Speed Rail Task Force was created to promote high speed rail through the Inland Empire. The Task Force wishes to be assist the Authority in determining how the HSR system will be routed through the Inland Empire. He stated the Task Force wants to be the Authority's advocates across the entire region and help to promote the system and the funding required.

**FINAL COMMENTS**

Vice Chairman Graveline thanked the City of Riverside and the Inland Empire High Speed Rail Task Force for their gracious hospitality and invited the Authority and the public to a reception in the adjoining room hosted by the Inland Empire High Speed Rail Task Force.